

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-95. (Cancelled)

96. (Currently Amended) A method for anonymously indexing an electronic record system, the method comprising:

storing an asymmetric cryptographic private key within, and under the control of a portable storage device ~~[[of]]~~ associated with a registered user, the private key operating within a public key infrastructure;

~~storing~~ creating an anonymous public key certificate and storing it within the public key infrastructure, the anonymous public key certificate being associated with an asymmetric cryptographic public key matching the asymmetric cryptographic private key, wherein the anonymous public key certificate contains an electronic record pointer, the electronic record pointer being associated with each item of personal information of the registered user held in the electronic record system;

providing the portable storage device with information for associating the registered user with the portable storage device; and

indexing, within the electronic record system, the personal information of the registered user, wherein association of the personal information with the registered user is anonymously verifiable by the electronic record system when presented with and using ~~use of~~ the anonymous public key certificate and the electronic record pointer, to affect anonymous indexing of the personal information within the electronic record system.

97. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 96 wherein the information for associating the registered user with the portable storage device is at least one of:

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human readable information; and
machine readable information.

98. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 96 wherein the portable storage device is at least one of: a smartcard and an electronic passport.

99.-100. (Cancelled)

101. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[99]]~~ 96 wherein digital signature codes verifiable by using the anonymous public key certificate are created for ~~given new~~ data items ~~within written into~~ the electronic record system, in order to explicitly link each digitally signed data item to ~~an the~~ electronic record pointer ~~associated with the digital signature codes~~ contained within the anonymous public key certificate, and wherein each digital signature code is interpreted as explicitly recording the consent of the registered person associated with the record pointer to the creation of each respective digitally signed data item.

102. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 96 wherein digital signature codes are created for given data items in the electronic record system using the asymmetric cryptographic private key, where each digital signature code is interpreted as explicitly recording the consent of the registered person to the creation of each respective digitally signed data item.

103. (Currently Amended) An anonymously indexed electronic record system comprising:

an electronic storage for indexing personal information of a registered user; and
a portable storage device for a registered user, an asymmetric cryptographic private key being within and under the control of the portable storage device, the portable storage device being provided with information for associating the registered user with the portable storage device; and the portable storage device storing a stored an anonymous public key certificate associated with an asymmetric cryptographic public key matching the asymmetric cryptographic

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private key, the anonymous public key certificate containing an electronic record pointer, the electronic record pointer being associated with each item of personal information of the registered user held in the electronic record system; and

~~an electronic storage indexing personal information of the registered user,~~

~~whereby-wherein~~ association of the personal information with the registered user is anonymously verifiable by use of the anonymous public key certificate and the electronic record pointer to effect anonymous indexing of the electronic record system.

104. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 103 wherein the information for associating the registered user with the portable storage device is at least one of:

human readable information; and

machine readable information.

105. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 103 wherein the portable storage device is at least one of: a smartcard and an electronic passport.

106. (Cancelled)

107. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[106]]~~ 103 wherein digital signature codes verifiable by using the anonymous public key certificate are created for ~~given-new~~ data items ~~within-written into~~ the electronic record system, in order to explicitly link each digitally signed data item to the ~~value of an electronic record pointer associated with the digital signature codes contained within the anonymous public key certificate, and wherein each digital signature code is interpreted as explicitly recording the consent of the registered person associated with the record pointer to the creation of each respective digitally signed data item.~~

108. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 103 wherein digital signature codes are created for given data items in the electronic record system using an asymmetric cryptographic private

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key issued to the registered person, where each digital signature code is interpreted as explicitly recording the consent of the registered person to the creation of each respective digitally signed data item.

109. (Previously presented) The system of claim 103 wherein the anonymous public key certificate contains a personal data component.

110. (Previously presented) The system of claim 109 wherein the personal data component comprises biometric data of the registered user.

111. (Cancelled)

112. (Previously presented) The system of claim 103, wherein an access code is stored in the portable storage device allowing access to the asymmetric cryptographic private key.

113. (Previously presented) The system of claim 103, wherein the asymmetric cryptographic private key can be copied with the registered user's authorization into the possession of an authorized user.

114. (Previously presented) The system of claim 113 wherein the authorized user is a health care professional authorized by the registered user to enter an update to the registered user's indexed personal information.

115. (Previously presented) A portable storage device for a registered user of an anonymously indexed electronic record system, the portable storage device being provided with information for associating the registered user with the portable storage device, wherein an asymmetric cryptographic private key is under the control of the portable storage device, wherein an anonymous public key certificate is associated with an asymmetric cryptographic public key

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matching the asymmetric cryptographic private key, and wherein association of anonymously indexed personal information with the user is anonymously verifiable by use of the anonymous public key certificate.

116. (New) The method according to claim 96 wherein the anonymous public key certificate held in the personal storage device further comprises data items setting out demographic information of the user.

117. (New) The method according to claim 96 wherein the electronic record system is configured for identifiable indexing when a secret pass-phrase of the personal storage device has been entered, and for anonymous indexing when the electronic record pointer is provided without entry of the secret pass-phrase.